

# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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Funded by: **USAID**

IP Title: **ALO: Training Technicians**

Length of project: **Two years**

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## Partners:

Cliff Missen, MA	The University of Iowa	<a href="mailto:missenc@widernet.org">missenc@widernet.org</a>
Dr. Michael McNulty	The University of Iowa	<a href="mailto:michael-mcnulty@uiowa.edu">michael-mcnulty@uiowa.edu</a>
Dr. Mamman Aminu Ibrahim	National Universities Commission	<a href="mailto:ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng">ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng</a>
??	Kirkwood Community College??	

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## Overall mission:

- Train 80 technicians in critical information technology skills
  - Demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of "on-seat" training
  - Demonstrate and experiment with computer-based distance learning
  - Encourage trainees to continue training at their home institutions
  - Build true academic interchanges over this IT "bridge"
  - Attract participants from multiple universities while focusing on UNIJOS and Ibadan
  - Achieve a gender balance in participants
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## Projects:

- Provide network and Internet IT training to technicians via annual 10-12 week computer-based training course for 40 individuals
- Conduct on-line (email) tutoring for trainees
- Test and certify trainees
- Provide one week annual in-country hands-on intensive training for 40 to 60 participants (in Abuja)
- Conduct two-day national conference at Jos, drawing on the expertise of trainees and other university-based IT professionals
- Provide participants with ongoing technical and industry updates via email list
- Select group of trainer apprentices from first year's trainees to assist with second year's training

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## Fiscal Responsibilities:

### Computer-Based Distance Training

- Handouts and CDs - ALO
- Communication/mailing - ALO
- Part-time Iowa student assistant - ALO
- 15% of Missen's time - ALO and UIowa
- 5% of McNulty's time - ALO
- 20% Ibrahim's time - NUC

### Annual In-Country Workshop

- Airfare for three U.S. trainers to Nigeria - ALO
- Per diem for three U.S. trainers while in Nigeria - ALO
- Visas for U.S. team - ALO (U.S. costs) and NUC (wahala)
- Local travel for U.S. trainers in Nigeria - NUC/UNIJOS
- Lodging for U.S. trainers in Nigeria - ALO/NUC/UNIJOS
- Equipment for U.S. trainers - UIowa
- Trainee travel/per diem/lodging - NUC/universities
- 10% of Missen's time - ALO and UIowa
- 10% Ibrahim's time - NUC

### U.S. Project Administration

- 5% of McNulty's time - UIowa
- Office space and support - UIowa
- Accounting and grant support -- UIowa
- Computer and network support - UIowa
- Utilities - UIowa
- Office Supplies - ALO

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## Selecting Participants

### Computer-Based Distance Training = 40

Six participants each from UNIJOS and Ibadan, while the NUC nominates persons from the other federal universities to fill the remaining 28 seats. Emphasis will be placed on the candidate's role in deploying information technology on his/her campus or department and his/her willingness to share their training with others.

### Annual In-Country Workshop = 40

Trainees who successfully complete the computer-based training are automatically assured a seat. Remaining seats will be assigned to applicants who have demonstrated advanced skills in networking and computers.

Note: As a condition of funding, we have committed to USAID to do our best to achieve a

gender balance in the selection of participants.

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## Reporting

Financial reports are due quarterly.

- December 31st
- March 31st
- June 30th
- September 30th

Project reports are due twice yearly:

- April 30th (Oct 1 - Mar 31)
- October 31st (April 1 - Sept 30)

A final report is expected at the end of the project.

One U.S. and one Nigerian project director is expected to attend an annual "Best Practices" conference, however -- while we are allowed to spend ALO funds on this -- it has not been budgeted.

Last updated Saturday, January 28, 2006 by Cliff Missen

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## Background Information

### ◆ Great Need for ICT Capacity Building

- Nigerian universities uniformly need dozens (if not hundreds) of trained ICT technicians and support staff.

### ◆ Looking for More Sustainable Model

- Of the handful of ICT technicians currently working at Nigerian universities, most were trained while attending overseas workshops
- This drains the university's limited travel budget (which is desperately needed to update faculty teaching and research skills)
- Of those who do travel abroad for training, many do not return
- Of those who return, many move into the private sector
- Of those who remain at the university, few have the opportunity to work with systems similar to what they learned abroad
- If the trainee was a faculty member, they rarely find time upon their return to do systems support
- Universities around the world suffer private sector poaching

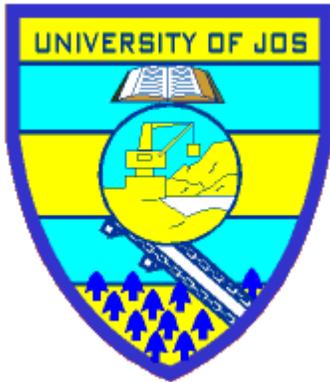
### ◆ The "On Seat" Alternative

- Use cutting-edge computer-based training (CBT) software
- Universities can train numerous technicians simultaneously
- CBT can be reused for years
- WiderNet Project to supply trainers for annual intensive workshop
- Utilize email to create on-line support community
- Promote inter-institution cooperation by hosting annual ICT "best practices" conference

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## Pre-conference Workshops

at the University of Jos



### ◆ **Wireless Networking**

This two-day workshop will feature presentations on wireless networking, both local area networking and wide area (building-to-building) networking. It will include a hands-on demonstration of wireless technology using new equipment from 3Com.

### ◆ **Designing Databases for the World Wide Web**

Using Microsoft FrontPage and Microsoft Access, we demonstrate how to easily set up Web-based data entry and reports. Using a Web server with FrontPage extensions, we'll show how even beginning users can build database interfaces and "upsized" them to SQL.

### ◆ **Computer Repair and Maintenance**

In this hands-on workshop, students will learn the basics of PC repair and maintenance. In the first part of the course, students will learn about the major hardware components of a PC by completely disassembling and then reassembling a PC. Students will then learn techniques for troubleshooting common hardware related problems. Students will also learn how to prepare a new PC and install the operating system.



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# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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## **Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration**

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
April 30, 2001

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Lead U. S. Institution: The University of Iowa

Host Country: Nigeria

Host Country Partner Institution: Nigerian National Universities Commission (NNUC)

Period Covered by this Report: September 1, 2000 - March 31, 2001

## **Section I: Qualitative Reporting**

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### 1. Project Summary:

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NNUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NNUC).

Major accomplishments in the reporting period.

- The University of Iowa has established an effective office in the International Center of the university and employed and trained two student assistants to work with the project.
- Primary activities have involved the development of close working relationships with faculty and staff at the university whose cooperation and participation will significantly enhance the training programs. Collaboration with Jim Duncan at the UI Library and Dave Dobbins, Director of the UI Instructional Technology Services have strengthened intra-university links and laid the foundation for future collaboration with those units.
- Visits have been made to Kirkwood Community College and Iowa State University in Ames to recruit trainers and establish closer working relationships.
- Visit of project partner Dr. Ibrahim Aminu (see c.v. on the WiderNet web site at: <http://www.widernet.org/uilinkages/partners/ibrahim.htm>). Dr. Aminu's visit to the UI was made possible by his visit to the U.S. to attend meetings in Washington,

D.C. in January. During his visit, Dr. Aminu consulted with the ALO Project Directors, met with university officials, met project personnel and toured the WiderNet Offices at the International Center. His visit provided us the opportunity to introduce our project to several senior UI administrators and to secure their support for the linkages with Nigerian Universities. Dr. Ibrahim also met a number of UI technicians and toured instructional technology classrooms and laboratories across campus. A record of his visit is available at:

<http://www.widernet.org/ibrahim>. The visit was especially helpful in demonstrating the size of undertaking and commitment needed by universities to establish and maintain instructional technology capabilities to support their teaching, research and service missions.

- In preparing self-study materials and creating documents and training modules, we have been contacting and securing permission for the use of documents from authors and institutions. These materials, representing over a hundred articles and thousands of technical support Web pages, are being used to create a basic library and resource database for the training to be conducted in the project. A number of books have been reviewed and several selected for use in participant training. Several computer-based training (CBT) products have been reviewed and negotiations are underway to purchase these products at a reduced cost.
- Nigerian institutions, in collaboration with the NNUC and the University of Iowa have been nominating and selecting participants in the first year training. This process has taken longer than anticipated owing to several disruptions in internet/e-mail access on a number of campuses in Nigeria as well as faculty strikes throughout the country.
- Project staff members have done considerable technical consulting with Nigerian partners. From working with Cisco Academy to evaluate the suitability of their training software for use in the WiderNet Project and at several Nigerian universities, to bench testing New Deal software. (A software package for older computers marketed to developing countries.) WiderNet has provided information on power backup resources, top-level domain (TLD) hosting for the national Internet domain, virus protection, and wireless networking.
- UI personnel have also been actively consulting with the NNUC, UNIJOS, and other universities in Nigeria in preparing for the training sessions as well as providing occasional technical support to participating universities.

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## 2. Project Status.

The initial stage of the project has taken longer than originally planned. With reference to the initial project schedule, 40 trainees were to have been identified and training topics agreed upon in the first two months of the project, September and October, 2000. This schedule proved to be overly optimistic, as communication among and between the NNUC and the participating institutions required more time than originally allocated. On each campus, administrators, faculty, and staff meetings were required to settle on the proposed list of trainees. There have also been recent strikes among the academic staff at Nigerian institutions that has made planning certain of the activities more complicated. Development of the training materials and obtaining permission to copy Web based resources and training modules has been progressing well, but securing the necessary permission from authors and institutions has also introduced delay into the training schedule.

Finally, the Nigerian partners have counseled patience in identifying the technical

trainees until the decision makers were identified for a parallel training project we are undertaking. This has already proven fruitful in that the decision makers, familiar with our projects, have been more forthcoming in identifying technical trainees.

Owing to these delays in the Fall, it was determined in November that the original scheduled training in February 2001 was not possible. We have since discussed the training program schedule with our Nigerian partners and have decided that the First Year training program will now take place in the late Summer 2001 to be followed by a similar training session in the early Summer of 2002.

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### 3. Project Planned Activities for next six months.

The partnership will provide training for the first group of forty (40) trainees. Final selection of participants is being completed by partner institutions in Nigeria in consultation with the NNUC and University of Iowa project directors. Individuals at partner institutions are being provided self-study materials and computer-based training tools prepared or procured by University of Iowa trainers. Participants will interact with trainers and other participants and be expected to demonstrate basic competence in their topic areas. Participant performance will determine their eligibility to attend an annual workshop at NNUC headquarters in Abuja to be held in August, 2001. The week-long Workshop will be conducted by U.S. project directors and trainers and provide participants with hands-on, intensive training. Participants will be tested and certified at the end of the Workshop. Following the Workshop, a two-day Conference on computers and networking, open to the public, will be held at the University of Jos.

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### 4. Significant goals or objectives amendments since the original project proposal.

The only major amendment has been to the timing of the initial training period and Workshop. All of the significant goals and objectives remain the same. We believe that the rescheduling of the training period and workshop have actually strengthened the project and increased the likelihood of success. The longer planning period has permitted us to collect and gain permission to use more and better training materials than might if we had attempted to maintain the original project schedule.

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5. According to your records, how much money has the partnership drawn down on ALO funds so far?  
\$ 9,900.

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## Section II: Quantitative Reporting for USAID Indicators

	This reporting period	Since Beginning of ALO funding
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Has your partnership established new formal links with other host country or U.S. institutions (government agencies, NGOs, businesses, etc.) for capacity building activities?	If yes, how many new partners? <u>2</u>	If yes, how many new partners? _____
<p>Briefly describe the involvement of new partners in project activities:</p> <p><b>Providing consulting to Nigerian Ministry of Information in the establishment of Internet services. They will send participants to in-country workshops.</b></p> <p><b>Received grant from CUAP to coach university decision makers in the adoption of digital technology on their campuses.</b></p>		
Beyond these new formal partners, how many other host country institutions have benefited from partnership activities (training of staff, participation in workshops, etc.)?	Number of institutions <u>2</u>	Number of institutions _____
Have host country partners participated in their government's policy dialogue in some area of development (e.g. taking part in government-sponsored panels, publishing policy papers, consulting with legislators and officials, etc.)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many times? <u>&gt; 12 times</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many times? _____
<p>Briefly describe any such policy dialogue engagements:</p> <p><b>Our NUC partners and the University of Jos have turned to us many times to provide information, statistics, and best practices as they have been negotiating with government agencies, the World Bank, foundations, and others in the design of their Internet services.</b></p>		
Have your host country partners adapted any new institutional programs, policies, or curricula as a result of partnership activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many? <u>1</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many? _____
<p>Briefly describe any new programs/policies/curricula:</p> <p><b>The University of Jos is undertaking the process to turn several University of Iowa courses into permanent credit offerings at their institution, to be taught simultaneously at both institutions. We are negotiating the same with the University of Ibadan.</b></p>		
How many host country nationals have been trained through partnership activities?	Female _____ Male _____	Female _____ Male _____
<p>Briefly describe the areas of training:</p>		
Has your partnership initiated any new activities within the area of workforce development?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new activities? _____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new activities? _____
<p>Briefly describe any new activities within the area of workforce development:</p>		
How many faculty members and students from the U.S. partner institution(s) have been involved in partnership activities?	Number <u>24</u>	Number _____

Has your partnership leveraged new funding sources (cash or in-kind) beyond host country public sector investments for its activities?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Value of new contributions:  
US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Value of new contributions:  
US\$ \_\_\_\_\_



Last updated Saturday, January 28, 2006 by Cliff Missen

# Dr. Mamman Aminu Ibrahim Profile

Dr. Mamman Aminu Ibrahim

- Born August 27, 1955 in Katsina, Katsina State, Nigeria
- Speaks English and Hausa
- Married with four children
- Religion: Islam

Current address:

Department of Research and Post-graduate Development, National Universities Commission, PMB 237 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria

Fax: 09-4133520

Email: [ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng](mailto:ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng)

Present Position: Deputy Director (Research & Development) and Chairman Nigerian Universities Network. Head of the division responsible for external funding, linkages and collaborations for all Nigerian universities. Chairman of the Nigerian Universities Network (NUNet) Committee. Founding member of the committee responsible for the establishment of private universities in Nigeria.

Dr. Ibrahim has authored more than 70 articles in international journals, books, and local newspapers on subjects including ethnoveterinary research and development, parasitology, information science, and sociology.

Past Experience:

- 1995 - Internet Technology Workshop (Hawaii)
- 1992 - USIS Voluntary Visitor/Study Fellowship
- 1991 - British Council Study Fellowship
- 1991 - University Equipment Maintenance (Bristol)
- 1986 - Cont. Pharmacy Educ Cert. (ABU, Zaria)
- 1984 - MSc in Vet Pharmacology (ABU, Zaria)
- 1982-1984 - International Livestock Center for Africa Study Fellowship
- 1980 - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (ABU, Zaria)

# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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## **Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration**

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
November 31, 2001

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Lead U. S. Institution: **The University of Iowa**

Host Country: **Nigeria**

Host Country Partner Institution: **Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC)**

Period Covered by this Report: **March 31, 2001 - September 30, 2001**

## **Section I: Qualitative Reporting**

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### 1. Project Summary:

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC).

Major accomplishments in the reporting period.

- Focusing on vendor-neutral, industry-standard certification for our trainees, we secured generous discount on LearnKey's A+ software -- an 8-CD collection of high quality multimedia training -- for each of the 14 participating universities. The A+ training prepares one to be a computer technician and covers computer construction, repair, software installation, and configuring a computer on a local area network. LearnKey's product is one of the highest-ranked computer-based training (CBT) modules available.
- LearnKey also donated the follow-on Network+ CBT package. This 4-CD set provides intensive training for network designers and administrators. Value of the donation: \$42,000
- Created the "TechCD": a single CD with over 15,000 documents on technical support issues. WiderNet Project staff contacted hundreds of authors and

publishers to secure permission for the use of documents. These CDs, which are provided to every trainee, represent an extensive library and resource database on topics related to project training. ([See the on-line version.](#))

- We secured a donation of 40 copies of Microsoft NT Server for each university involved with the technician training. Value of the donation: \$48,000
- We secured a donation of 28 copies of RedHat Linux for each university involved with the technician training (plus a promise for more copies for next year's trainees.) Value of the donation: \$15,000
- Provided three-day on-site training for 40+ university technicians at NUC's headquarters in Abuja. Trainees were introduced to the CBT software, heard a dozen lectures on computer and network technology, and got to try their hands at assembling PCs from components as well as making network cables and setting up local area networks. ([See the report...](#))
- Provided five days of consulting and training at the university of Ibadan. Met with administrators and computer committee to discuss campus ICT strategy and plans. Reviewed and discussed their grant application with the MacArthur Foundation. Visited SKANNET, the local internet service provider (ISP) that supplies the University of Ibadan with its Internet connectivity. Toured campus. Met with 20 high-ranked administrators to present "Demystifying Databases" and discuss off-the-shelf enterprise-scale management software. Made presentation to 23 database programmers from various departments around campus on developing databases and designing databases for the Web. Met with ten technical trainees to introduced the CBT software, demonstrated it use, and then answered questions their about all matters of ICT. Gave a presentation entitled "African University Digitization" and discussed issues of ICT in higher education with vice chancellor and university council.
- Spent two days assisting NUC staff in reviewing applicants for several positions for a World Bank-sponsored Internet and networks project.
- Conducted three days of training with 12 NUC staff. Covered "Digitizing Materials for the World Wide Web," "Digital Libraries", "Demystifying Databases", "Database Design with Microsoft Access," and "Designing Databases for the World Wide Web."
- Met individually with representatives from the University of Jos, Ahmadu Bello University (Zaria), and Bayero University, Kano to discuss their ICT plans and hear about their progress.
- Set up temporary certification system at the NUC for technical trainees using third-party testing software. Still working with Prometric to establish the WiderNet Project as a bona fide certification center.
- Set up and deployed TechTraining email list, a list service for the 40 technicians in the training program to exchange ideas, ask questions, and collaborate.
- Microsoft donated software for the WiderNet Project office to set up demonstration servers and host WiderNet Project applications and Web sites. The suite includes: Microsoft Server 2000, Exchange 2000, and SQL 2000. Value of the donation: \$23,000

- Project staff members have done considerable technical consulting with Nigerian partners. From working with several Nigerian universities to evaluate the suitability of the Cisco Academy, to evaluating New Deal software, to assisting in establishing Nigeria's top level domain with Network Startup Resource Center, to helping technicians monitor and manage their limited Internet connectivity.
  - Entirely on the side, we have collected donations of over 100 computers (Pentium or better) for shipment to our partner universities in Nigeria. Our partners have agreed to pay for the shipping costs (\$5,000) once we have collected the 300 computers that will fill a cargo container.
  - Finally, we have, through a \$480,000 MacArthur Foundation grant, expanded the WiderNet Project to include other universities and extend the range of services we can provide to Nigerian universities.
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## 2. Project Status.

While it has taken some time for this project to build up a good head of steam, we are very happy with the results of the last six months. Delays have become common -- for example we were still not sure the training in Abuja would hold in November until a week before the scheduled start date -- but not because of a lack of effort. Our partners at the NUC did an admirable job of bringing the participants together and hosting the main training event in Abuja.

The proof of the quality of the training comes in two parts: when participants were asked to rank various aspects of the training on a scale from 1-to-10, they consistently awarded 9s and 10s. ([See the evaluations.](#)) The second part comes in the next few months as the trainees return to Abuja to take the certification exam. Since each university has a copy of the CBT software, we've encouraged them to train as many technicians as they wish. We've committed to certifying as many people as they send.

Our on-the-ground consulting efforts delivered big payoffs in November and our Ibadan partners expressed their great appreciation for the resources provided through this USAID project.

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## 3. Project Planned Activities for next six months.

Over the next six months we will be coaching the technician trainees via email and the NUC will be certifying them whenever they are ready to be tested.

We hope to return to Nigeria for a second round of training and consulting in May or June. Meanwhile, the WiderNet Project staff continue to collect training materials and Web sites for the trainees, as well as provide occasional consulting to individual universities.

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## 4. Significant goals or objectives amendments since the original project proposal.

Since the terrorist attack of September 11th, we saw every potential trainer who had previously expressed interest in traveling to Nigeria warily decline the opportunity. We're still looking for trainers to accompany us on our next trip, but we're having to look further afield. We might wind up employing more trainers to do email coaching and stateside testing and troubleshooting in the new WiderNet lab.

5. According to your records, how much money has the partnership drawn down on ALO funds so far?

\$ 21,666.13

## Section II: Quantitative Reporting for USAID Indicators

	This reporting period	Since Beginning of ALO funding
Has your partnership established new formal links with other host country or U.S. institutions (government agencies, NGOs, businesses, etc.) for capacity building activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new partners? ___ 4 ___	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new partners? ___ 6 ___
Briefly describe the involvement of new partners in project activities:  <b>Microsoft and Red Hat have donated software and pledged to assist further. LearnKey has given us steep discounts on some of their products and donations of others. The MacArthur Foundation has supported the extension of some WiderNet services to a set of universities they are collaborating with in Nigeria.</b>		
Beyond these new formal partners, how many other host country institutions have benefited from partnership activities (training of staff, participation in workshops, etc.)?	Number of institutions ___ 14 ___	Number of institutions ___ 16 ___
Have host country partners participated in their government's policy dialogue in some area of development (e.g. taking part in government-sponsored panels, publishing policy papers, consulting with legislators and officials, etc.)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many times? _ >12 times _	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many times? _ > 24 times _
Briefly describe any such policy dialogue engagements:  <b>Our NUC partners and the University of Jos have turned to us many times to provide information, statistics, and best practices as they have been negotiating with government agencies, the World Bank, foundations, and others in the design of Internet services for NUC universities and other Nigerian educational institutions. We have consulted with the National Center of Women Development on ICT implementation as well as local internet service providers.</b>  <b>Our partners have served on numerous panels and committees to help shape ICT policy for Nigeria.</b>		

Have your host country partners adapted any new institutional programs, policies, or curricula as a result of partnership activities?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many? __ 1 __	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many? __ 2 __
Briefly describe any new programs/policies/curricula:  <b>The University of Jos has signed up to be a Cisco Academy.</b>		
How many host country nationals have been trained through partnership activities?	Female <u>26</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <u>99</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <u>26</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <u>99</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
Briefly describe the areas of training:  <b>Training in computer support, network design, database design, creating Web sites, digitizing materials for the World Wide Web, and the general implementation of ICT on college campuses.</b>		
Has your partnership initiated any new activities within the area of workforce development?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new activities? _____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, how many new activities? _____
Briefly describe any new activities within the area of workforce development:		
How many faculty members and students from the U.S. partner institution(s) have been involved in partnership activities?	Number __ 24 __	Number __ 36 __
Has your partnership leveraged new funding sources (cash or in-kind) beyond host country public sector investments for its activities?  <b>(Not including the value of over 100 donated computers...)</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Value of new contributions: US\$ <b>566,000</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Value of new contributions: US\$ <b>566,000</b>



Technician Training 2001

## Computer and Network Training Workshop for Nigerian University ICT staff

Sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, The University of Iowa, and the National Universities Commission



**Many workshop participants got their first experience assembling personal computers. Those with previous experience led the exercise, emphasizing the WiderNet Project training motto: "See one. Do one. Teach one."**

November 7-9, 2001, the WiderNet Project conducted an intensive workshop for 38 Nigerian ICT staff members from 14 federal universities (Plus a few welcome gate-crashers.) Focusing on the creation of campus networks, the workshop covered a variety of topics ranging from computer assembly to satellite links to the Internet.

WiderNet Project director Cliff Missen led the three-day intensive workshop, held at the National Universities Commission in the Nigerian capitol of Abuja.

But three days of lectures and hands-on exercises is only the beginning: participants were provided with a WiderNet Project CD containing thousands of documents on building and maintaining campus ICT, as well as computer-based training (CBT) software from LearnKey, Inc. The LearnKey CDs provide 28 hours of multimedia training in personal computer support and maintenance and prepares the trainees to take and pass CompTIA's much sought after "A+" certification. Workshop participants went home to their universities to continue their training with ample coaching via email from the WiderNet Project staff. When ready, they will return to Abuja to sit for the exam and gain their certificate.

Once trainees pass their "A+" exam, their university will also receive a grant of LearnKey's "Network+" CBT as well as copies of Microsoft's Windows NT and Red Hat's Linux Server Professional. The project goal is to have all of the workshop participants achieve both "A+" and "Network+" certifications in the next year.

- ◆ [See a list of workshop participants](#)
- ◆ [See a list of workshop topics](#)
- ◆ [See the results of the participant evaluations](#)
- ◆ [See those who have finished their CBT, passed their exams, and earned a WiderNet Project A+ certificate](#)



**Everyone got a chance to try their hand at making network cables.**



**NUC Headquarters in Abuja**



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"NUNet NUC - 10 Gbossa (cheers) for you! For you have done a good job. "

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"I really had a nice time. I am not the same way I came. It's worthwhile training. A big thanks to all!"

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"It's been a great time with Cliff. I wish he is able to visit each University to see what is on the ground and help the universities in overcoming their peculiar problems. Thanks so much to the organizers, especially Dr. Ibrahim and Prof. Cliff Missen."

**-- 2001 Technician Training Workshop Participants --**

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## Progress Report

### ◆ Slow Start

- Putting staff together at Iowa took longer than expected
- Complementary grant had us focusing on decision makers first
- Email in Nigeria not reliable enough to do programs with multiple participants
- Securing CBT software donations took longer than expected (Intellectual property risks, etc.)

### ◆ Accomplishments

- Two Nigerian cohorts have visited Iowa to tour, teach, and promote linkages
- Two Iowa faculty have visited partner universities in Nigeria to explore linkages
- Determined industry standard training tracks for technicians (CompTIA A+ and Network+)
- Recruited 32 trainees from 15 universities (another eight are being recruited now)
- Created resource CD for technicians with over 10,000 documents from various support Web sites (getting permissions from over a hundred authors and publishers)
- Secured donation of LearnKey CBT software for each participant (value \$40,000)
- Secured donation of current Red Hat Linux Professional Server for each institution (value: \$5,000)
- Still working with other potential donors
- Miscellaneous consulting on various ICT issues (New Deal computers, Cisco Academy, wireless networking, satellite Internet connectivity, etc.)

### ◆ An Unexpected Aside

- Have collected over 100 used but still functional Pentium computers for partner universities.
  - Staff of WiderNet project researched shipping alternatives and arranged container
  - Collection and preparation of donations done entirely by volunteers
-

# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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## **Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration**

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
March 31, 2002

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Lead U. S. Institution: **The University of Iowa**

Host Country: **Nigeria**

Host Country Partner Institution: **Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC)**

Partnership Directors: **Cliff Missen, MA  
Mike McNulty, PhD**

Period Covered by this Report: **October 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002**

Project Start Date: **September 1, 2000**

## **Section I: Qualitative Reporting**

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### 1. Project Summary:

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC).

Major accomplishments in the reporting period.

- Two participants of the WiderNet technician training passed Learnkey's A+ Master Exam at NUC in February. They have mastered a wealth of material on building, repairing, and deploying computers through the completion of more than 24 hours of computer-based training cds. Nine participants from four universities are currently in the process of becoming certified.
- Project staff completed the "Satellite CD" which contains information (websites, articles, reports) on purchasing options, technical set-up, and operation of digital satellite systems. This plan demonstrates how satellite Internet connectivity can be used throughout Nigeria and prepares Nigerian technicians for a future that looks

increasingly to be satellite based. ([See the report...](#))

- Project staff members have continued to do considerable technical consulting with Nigerian partners. In addition to assisting technicians to monitor and manage Internet connectivity, the staff members have advised and given quotes on satellite technology.
- Director Missen covered "Introduction to the Internet," "Big Birds, Bent Pipes," "Introduction to Web Design," "Demystifying Databases," "Academic Information and Communication Technologies," "Interactive Database Design with Microsoft Access," and "Easy Database Design with Microsoft FrontPage" at UNIJOS for staff at the Computer Centre. ([See the report...](#))
- Director Missen held a two-day Digitizing Materials Workshop at the Computer Centre for 30 attendees.
- The WiderNet Project co-hosted, with the University of Jos, a National Conference on ICT in Higher Education for 51 attendees from five universities and five local organizations.
- On the side, we have continued to collect donations of computers for shipment to our partner universities in Nigeria. Plans are in place to send the shipment of 300 computers, networking equipment, and software in April. Fifty volunteers are signed up to work 200 hours. These items will be distributed among The Universities of Jos and Ibadan.
- Director Missen consulted with the NUC, installing an NT server with the WiderNet Library and toured the new information center at the Center for Women's Development. He also met with several university officials to discuss ICT plans. ([See the report...](#))
- Participants have maintained their correspondence with other participants and trainers via email. They receive frequent news via email and occasional CD-ROMs with updated software and training materials. Participating institutions and trainees conduct training sessions at their home institutions and provide a summary report on outcomes.
- 3Com Corporation donated a network switch and a network router to the WiderNet office for use in maintaining websites, networking, communication, and projects facilitation. Additionally, 3Com has donated 200 network interface cards to complement the donated computers for Nigerian universities.
- The WiderNet Project has provided training and resources to three visiting Nigerian scholars from the University of Ibadan and the University of Jos and has extended invitations to four more to investigate the use and development of multimedia materials in contemporary U.S. university classrooms. ([Meet the visitors...](#))

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## 2. Project Status.

We are pleased with the results of the last six months. Two trainees passed the certification exam and we expect more to do the same in the next few months. We've committed to certifying as many people as they send.

Through on-site consulting sessions and ongoing correspondence with university administrators and technicians, the implementation and

integration of information technology has been significant at the academic institutions of our partners.

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### 3. Project Planned Activities for next six months.

Over the next six months, we will be coaching the technician trainees via email and the NUC will be certifying them whenever they are ready.

We hope to return to Nigeria for a third round of training and consulting in May or June. Meanwhile, the WiderNet Project staff will continue to collect training materials and Web sites for the trainees as well as provide occasional consulting to individual universities. We are hoping to expand our training to include universities in Ghana.

A shipment of donated computers, networking equipment, software, and journals is planned for April, 2002. These items will be distributed among The Universities of Jos and Ibadan.

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### 4. Significant goals or objectives amendments since the original project proposal.

Since the terrorist attack of September 11th, we saw every potential trainer who had previously expressed interest in traveling to Nigeria warily decline the opportunity. We're still looking for trainers to accompany us on our next trip, but we're having to look further afield. We might wind up employing more trainers to do email coaching and stateside testing and troubleshooting in the new WiderNet lab.

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### 5. According to your records, how much money has the partnership drawn down on ALO funds so far?

\$57,716.68

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## Section II: Quantitative Reporting for USAID Indicators

	This reporting period	Since Beginning of ALO funding
Has your partnership established new formal links with other host country or U.S. institutions (government agencies, NGOs, businesses, etc.) for capacity building activities?	Yes ___ No <b>X</b> ___ If yes, how many new partners? <b>4</b>	Yes <b>X</b> ___ No ___ If yes, how many new partners? <b>6</b>

Briefly describe the involvement of new partners in project activities:

**Microsoft has donated software and pledged to assist further. LearnKey still has given us steep discounts on some of their products and donations of others.**

Beyond these new formal partners, how many other host country institutions have benefited from partnership activities (training of staff, participation in workshops, etc.)?	Number of institutions ___ <b>16</b> ___	Number of institutions ___ <b>18</b> ___
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Have host country partners participated in their government's policy dialogue in some area of development (e.g. taking part in government-sponsored panels, publishing policy papers, consulting with legislators and officials, etc.)?	Yes ___ <b>X</b> ___ No ___ If yes, how many times? _ <b>&gt;24 times</b> _	Yes ___ <b>X</b> ___ No ___ If yes, how many times? _ <b>&gt; 36 times</b> _
---	---	--

Briefly describe any such policy dialogue engagements:

**Our NUC partners and the University of Jos have turned to us many times to provide information, statistics, and best practices as they have been negotiating with government agencies, the World Bank, foundations, and others in the design of Internet services for NUC universities and other Nigerian educational institutions.**

**Our partners have served on numerous panels and committees to help shape ICT policy for Nigeria.**

Have your host country partners adapted any new institutional programs, policies, or curricula as a result of partnership activities?	Yes ___ No ___ <b>X</b> ___ If yes, how many? ___ <b>1</b> ___	Yes ___ <b>X</b> ___ No ___ If yes, how many? ___ <b>2</b> ___
---	--	--

Briefly describe any new programs/policies/curricula:

**The University of Jos signed up to be a Cisco Academy during the last reporting period.**

How many host country nationals have been trained through partnership activities?	Female ___ <b>29</b> ___ Male ___ <b>85</b> ___	Female ___ <b>55</b> ___ Male ___ <b>184</b> ___
---	--	---

Briefly describe the areas of training:

**Training in computer support, network design, database design, creating Web sites, digitizing materials for the World Wide Web, and the general implementation of ICT on college campuses.**

Has your partnership initiated any new activities within the area of workforce development?	Yes ___ No ___ <b>X</b> ___ If yes, how many new activities? _____	Yes ___ No ___ <b>X</b> ___ If yes, how many new activities? _____
---	--	--

Briefly describe any new activities within the area of workforce development:

How many faculty members and students from the U.S. partner institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number ___ <b>31</b> ___	Number ___ <b>43</b> ___
--	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

Has your partnership leveraged new funding sources (cash or in-kind) beyond host country public sector investments for its activities?	Yes ___ <b>X</b> ___ No ___ Value of new contributions: _____	Yes ___ <b>X</b> ___ No ___ Value of new contributions: _____
--	---	---

**(Not including the value of an additional 200 donated computers since last reporting period or volunteer hours)**

**US\$ 48,000**

**US\$ 614,000**

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Last updated Saturday, January 28, 2006 by Cliff Missen



◆ **Itinerary**

**Tuesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>** 7-10 Dinner with Tim Smith (State Department) and TSS staff

**Wednesday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>** 10-11:30 Meet with Tom Hobgood – USAID Director

12-1:30 Consult at NUC. Install NT server for WiderNet Library

2-3:30 Meet with Don Bishop (State Department Public Affairs)

3:30-5 Tour new Information Center at Center for Women Development

evening: meet with potential grad student Elizabeth Oviawe.

**Thursday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>** Consult at NUC. Discover WiderNet Library hard drive broken. Arrange for copy from Jos. Purchase replacement hard drive. Plan for proxy server and switch installation. Configure server software.

7-10 Dinner with Tim Smith

10-3am Make copies of Jos' WiderNet Library hard disk for NUC and Ibadan

**Friday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>** Federal Holiday (Eid)

10-12 Finish WiderNet Library  
installation at NUC

12-2 Visit to Dr. Aminu Ibrahim's home  
for Eid

3-5 Fly to Lagos

5-7 Transported to Ibadan by University  
of Ibadan

 **Photo Gallery**

# February 2002 Photos

Click to see the full size picture





**The WiderNet Project's Second Annual Technician  
Training**  
November 3-6, 2002

### Conference Description

WiderNet Project director Cliff Missen will lead a three-day computer technician training at the University of Ibadan, November 3-6.

This three-day intensive workshop is for Nigerian federal university ICT staff members and is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the University of Iowa, and the University of Ibadan. Focusing on the creation of campus networks, the workshop will cover a variety of topics ranging from computer assembly to satellite links to the Internet.

Participants will hear lectures on computer and network topics, watch demonstrations on computer assembly and basic networking, and then get hands-on experience building computers, preparing network wires, and building local area networks.

But three days of lectures and hands-on exercises are only the beginning: participants will be provided with a WiderNet Project CD containing thousands of documents and tutorials on building and maintaining campus ICT, as well as computer-based training (CBT) software from LearnKey, Inc. (Worth \$500 USD.)

The LearnKey CDs provide 28 hours of multimedia training in personal computer support and maintenance. It prepares the trainees to take and

pass CompTIA's much sought after "A+" certification. After workshop participants return home to their universities, they will continue their training -- with coaching via email from the WiderNet Project staff. When ready, they can return to Abuja to sit for the exam and gain their WiderNet Project "A+" Exam certificate.

Once trainees pass their "A+" exam, their university will also receive a grant of LearnKey's "Network+" CBT as well as copies of Microsoft's Windows NT and Red Hat's Linux Server Professional. (Valued at over \$1,200. One set per university.) The project goal is to have all of the workshop participants pass both of the WiderNet Project's "A+" and "Network+" exams in the next year.

This training is designed for entry-level computer staff (no PhDs allowed, sorry), who will be responsible for setting up computers and installing networks on their campuses. This training is a repeat of previous year's training, so only those who have not taken the training before are eligible to apply.

Universities sending trainees will be responsible to provide them with housing and per diem. Lunch will be provided at the workshop. For more information on lodging, contact Dr. Ayodeji E. Oluleye at the University of Ibadan:

**email:** [aoluleye@skannet.com](mailto:aoluleye@skannet.com) or [ayodeji.oluleye@mail.ui.edu.ng](mailto:ayodeji.oluleye@mail.ui.edu.ng)  
**tel:** 02-810-5789)

Last year the training was attended by 38 persons who gave the workshop **very high marks**. We expect as many or more to attend this year's training, but the seats will fill up fast. Please sign up soon, either by the visiting the **[On-Line Sign Up Web site](#)** or by contacting Dr. Aminu Ibrahim at the National Universities Commission.

**email:** [ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng](mailto:ibrahim@nuc.edu.ng)  
**tel:** 09-413-5396

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## Conference Schedule

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### Day One

Opening ceremony

Introduction to the WiderNet Project and the scope of the training

Lecture: **"Academic Information and Communication Technologies"**

There's a myriad of ways that ICT can be used in the academy -- from managing the payroll to teaching in the classroom. In this lecture we review the options and describe what it takes to digitize the various domains of academia.

Lecture: **"Nuts and Bolts of Computers and Networking"**

We cover some of the basic technical concepts and terms we think will make your computing experience more fluid and will act as a solid foundation to your understanding of the Internet.

Demonstration: **Computer Based Training (CBT) Materials**

LUNCH

Demonstration: **Building Computers**

Demonstration: **Making Network Cables**

**Hands-on Practicum:** the class will divide into two groups and either make and test network cables or build a computer from the basic parts.

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## Day Two

Lecture: **"The Network Wire"**

So how do these wires work, anyway? What does it mean to be "wired?" What constitutes a wire? Packets, IP addresses, and DNS explained...

Lecture: **"Guerrilla Networking: Building Local Area Networks"**

Even without a connection to the Internet, wiring computers together has zillions of benefits. We look at the reasons to connect computers and the remarkable ease with which this can be done.

Lecture: **"Low Cost Internetworking"**

So you want to connect but don't have the \$10,000,000/yr for a dedicated line? I explain some of the alternative, cost-effective ways that people are connecting to the Internet.

LUNCH

Lecture: **"Inside the Internet: The Basic Internet Services"**

Email, TELNET, and FTP -- how these long-established Internet tools have evolved into HTTP and today's vibrant World Wide Web.

**Hands-on Practicum:** the class will divide into two groups and either make and test network cables or build a computer from the basic parts. (Reversing the task done the prior day...)

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### Day Three

Lecture: **"The Internet in the Developing World: Making the Connection"**

A look at the technologies currently employed to provide Internet services in the developing world.

Lecture: **"Big Birds, Bent Pipes"**

Wireless networking via satellites is already used throughout the world where hard wired Internet connections are absent. However, their impact is only just beginning to be felt. This lecture explains some satellite technology and terminology and examines how new developments may make for plentiful bandwidth worldwide.

Lecture: **"Power Supply Protection"**

Reliable power and regulated power are necessary for any computer installation. We cover strategies for protecting individual computers and whole buildings.

LUNCH

Demonstration: **Creating a Local Area Network**

**Hands-on Practicum:** the class will divide into several groups to make small LANs with workgroup hubs and switches and then interconnect them.

Closing ceremony.

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Support the WiderNet Project • [Click to Donate On-Line](#)

School of  
Library and Information Science  
The University of Iowa



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# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

## Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
October 31, 2002

Lead U. S. Institution: **The University of Iowa**

Host Country: **Nigeria**

Host Country Partner Institution: **Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC)**

Partnership Directors: **Cliff Missen, MA  
Mike McNulty, PhD**

Period Covered by this Report: **April 1, 2002 - September 30, 2002**

Project Start Date: **September 1, 2000**

### Section I: Quantitative Reporting on USAID Indicators

	This reporting period	Since Beginning of ALO funding
How many other host country institutions have benefited from partnership activities (training of staff, participation in workshops, etc.)?	Number of institutions <u>  2  </u>	Number of institutions <u>  18  </u>
Please list these host country institutions and briefly describe their involvement:  <b>Consulting at the Computer Centre of the University of Jos and training of MIS staff at the University of Ibadan</b>		
How many U.S. institutions (government agencies, NGOs, businesses, etc.) have been involved in partnership activities?	Number of institutions <b>3</b>	Number of institutions <b>6</b>
Please list these institutions and briefly describe their involvement:  <b>Microsoft and EZ-Ref have donated software and pledged to assist further. LearnKey still has given us steep discounts on some of their products and have donated other products.</b>		
How many institutional programs, policies, or curricula have been adopted by your host country partners as a result of partnership activities?	<b>None</b>	<b>2</b>
Briefly describe any new programs/policies/curricula:		

How many host country nationals have been trained through partnership activities?	Female <u>5</u> Male <u>31</u>	Female <u>60</u> Male <u>215</u>
Briefly describe the content and duration of the training:		
<b>Training in computer support, network design, database design, creating Web sites, digitizing materials for the World Wide Web, and the general implementation of ICT on college campuses.</b>		
How many new workforce development activities have been initiated by your partnership?	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
Briefly describe any new activities within the area of workforce development:		
How many faculty members and students from the U.S. partner institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number <u>31</u>	Number <u>43</u>
Has your partnership leveraged new funding sources (cash or in-kind) beyond host country public sector investments for its activities?	Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>	Yes <u>X</u> No <u>    </u>
<b>(Not including the value of an additional 100 donated computers since last reporting period)</b>	Value of new contributions: US\$ <b>140,800</b>	Value of new contributions: US\$ <b>754,800</b>

## Section II: Qualitative Reporting

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### 1. Project Summary:

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC).

Through on-site consulting sessions and ongoing correspondence with university administrators and technicians, the implementation and integration of information technology has been significant at the academic institutions of our partners.

### 2. Major accomplishments in the reporting period.

- A LAN composed of five workstations and a server donated by The WiderNet Project was set up at The School of Public Health of The Gambia College by one of our Nigerian trainees. Ms. Saweda Liverpool installed a copy of [The WiderNet Project Digital Library](#) and provided training to students ([See the report...](#))
- One more trainee passed Learnkey's A+ Master certification exam and we expect about a dozen more to do the same in the next year. We've committed to certifying as many people as they send. ([See certification results...](#))
- Project staff members have continued to do considerable technical consulting with Nigerian partners. In addition to assisting technicians to monitor and manage Internet connectivity, the staff members have advised and given quotes on satellite technology.
- Director Missen provided general training for MIS staff and College of Medicine IT

staff at the University of Ibadan in May.

- Director Missen consulted with UNIJOS staff at the Computer Centre to plan future trainings and set up the WorldSpace radio.
- Participants have maintained their correspondence with other participants and trainers via email. They receive frequent news via email and occasional CD-ROMs with updated software and training materials. Participating institutions and trainees conduct training sessions at their home institutions and provide a summary report on outcomes.
- The WiderNet Project has continued to provide training and resources to a visiting Nigerian scholar from the University of Jos and has extended an invitation to the Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt to study the use of Information Technology processes in the administrative functions of universities. ([Meet the visitors...](#))
- 3Com Corporation donated wireless technology equipment a network switch and a network router to the WiderNet office for use in local and wide area networking with a total value of \$6000.
- Microsoft Corporation donated operating systems and software for the WiderNet Project office to set up demonstration servers and host WiderNet Project applications and Web sites. The donations include: Windows 2000 Server, SharePoint Portal Server, and SQL Server 2000; Frontpage software; and books bringing the value of the total donation to \$131,000.
- EZ-Ref Customized Courseware donated a complete computer training courseware library for the purpose of training Nigerian University staff. The total value of the donation is \$3500.
- On the side, we have continued to collect donations of computers for a second shipment to our partner universities in Nigeria. We have already received 100 computers from local and regional donators.
- The WiderNet Project has been featured in several articles during the last reporting period. ([See announcements page...](#))

### 3. How have these activities contributed to sustainable development in the host country?

The technical training contributes to 'sustainable development' in several important ways from an institutional perspective. Upgrading the skills of the Nigerian technician will have the effect of ensuring that scarce institutional resources are used more effectively, expensive equipment and IT systems will be maintained and upgraded, and improved ICT systems and applications may offer revenue generation possibilities through user fees and/or service charges and consultancies to help sustain the development of the ICT infrastructure and services.

Providing advanced training for technical staff will also provide an incentive for staff to remain with the institution and reduce turnover in personnel.

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### 4. Project Status.

For a myriad of reasons – none of them insurmountable – we are essentially one cycle behind in this schedule.

In 2001, Nigerian university staff staged a wave of strikes that temporarily shut down universities. These strikes delayed the project since most of our linkages are with the universities. We have also had difficulty finding trainers willing to travel to Nigeria after the terrorist attacks of September 11 and have had to rely on email coaching, stateside testing, and distance troubleshooting at the WiderNet Project office. As well, the last scheduled technician training was postponed due to leadership changes at our partner, the NUC.

We have completed one full cycle of the proposed project:

We produced and provided trainees with a CD containing over 15,000 documents for learning a wide variety of computer technical skills. (See <http://www.widernet.org/TechTraining/CD/index.htm>.) We've distributed another 100 copies of this CD to universities during consulting and training activities.

We secured donations of tens of thousands of dollars worth of high-end server software and training materials for trainees.

We held training for 38 university technical staff in Abuja in November of 2001, (see <http://www.widernet.org/TechTraining/TechTraining01/index.htm> ) which went very well. At the end of the training the participants were given computer-based training CDs to assist them in attaining two industry standard certifications. Since then, 16 have returned to the NUC to pass their A+ certification and are now working on their Network+ certification.

We have done on-site consulting at the University of Ibadan, University of Jos, Bayero University, Kano, Ahmadu Bello University, and the University of Port Harcourt. We have provided technical consulting to dozens of universities via email and the Web. (For examples, see <http://www.widernet.org/DecisionMakers/misc/backupppower.htm> and <http://www.widernet.org/satellite>.)

We organized and hosted the second annual National Conference on ICT in Higher Education (see <http://www.widernet.org/february2002/jos02/jos>) with 54 participants from six universities, several government agencies, and a number of private sector groups (see [list of attendees](#) at and [evaluations](#)).

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## 5. Project Planned Activities for next six months.

WiderNet Project Director Cliff Missen will lead the [Second Annual Technician Training](#) at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. This three day computer training will be an intensive workshop focusing on the creation of campus networks for entry-level ICT staff members of Nigerian federal universities. The workshop will cover a variety of topics ranging from computer assembly to satellite links to the internet. Participants will hear lectures on computer and network topics, watch demonstrations on computer assembly and basic networking, and then get hands-on experience building computers, preparing network wires, and building local area networks.

Each of the participants will receive a copy of the Technician Training 2002 Project CD. This CD-Rom is a compilation of over ten lectures and PowerPoint presentations by Director Missen, hundreds of articles on a variety of IT subjects, numerous software program downloads, tutorials, and a vast section of satellite internet services.

Cliff Missen and Michael Schmitz will hold a [Wireless Networking Workshop](#) at the University of Ibadan. This workshop features presentations of wireless networking, local area networking, and wide area (building-to-building) networking. Hands-on demonstrations of wireless technology using new equipment from 3Com Corporation will be scheduled during the workshop.

Cliff Missen and Michael Schmitz will hold [Web Design Training](#) at the University of Ibadan. This training includes lectures and demonstrations of practical and efficient Web site design and maintenance. The training will introduce basic Web page design skills and demonstrate the integration of graphics, tables, and databases. Attention will be paid to design techniques that create fast-loading and easily readable pages.

Over the next six months, we will be coaching the technician trainees via email and the NUC will be certifying them whenever they are ready.

Another shipment of donated computers, networking equipment, software, and journals is planned within the next six months. As soon as we receive 300 more computers, we will ship these items to the Universities of Jos and Ibadan.

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#### 6. Significant goals or objectives amendments since the original project proposal.

We will essentially complete the second cycle of the project by September, 2003 with a couple minor changes.

Cliff Missen will be making two more trips to Nigeria during the next year and will be accompanied in the fall by trainer Michael Schmitz. We have one more training to do in the fall and then a year's worth of follow-up and coaching followed by a conference and evaluation period.

Given the difficulty of finding trainers who will travel to Nigeria, we have hired more students to prepare resources and to coach our Nigerian counterparts.

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#### 7. According to your records, how much money has the partnership drawn down on ALO funds so far?

\$67,205.14

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Last updated Saturday, January 28, 2006 by Cliff Missen



## February 2002 Training University of Jos



## Training Session 13th & 14th February 2002

### Papers:

- Introduction to UNIJOS Intranet  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/TheIntra.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/TheIntra.pdf)  
(Paper presented by John L. Gotip, NUNet that introduces University of Jos Intranet)
- Internet: A Little Deeper  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/THEINTER.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/THEINTER.pdf)  
(Presented by I. D Yakmut, NUNet coordinator University of Jos)

### Training:

- Digitizing Materials for the World Wide Web

## Conference 15th February 2002

- Vice Chancellor's Speech  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/vcspeech.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/vcspeech.pdf)
- Chairman Committee of Deans' Speech  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/chairmanspeech.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/chairmanspeech.pdf)

### Papers:

### Session I: Development of ICT in Nigerian Institutions/Organisations

- Networking The Nigerian University System: The UNN Experience  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/unnpaper.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/unnpaper.pdf)  
(A paper presented by G. M. Nwamarah, Director MIS Unit Nsukka)
- Trends in the Development of ICT in the Usmanu Danfodiyo

## University

PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/CHAFE.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/CHAFE.pdf)

(By Ahmed Isah Chafe, Co-ordinator NUNet Sokoto)

## Session II: Internet Access and Web Page Design

- InterWeb at the University of Jos  
PPT at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/InterAccess.ppt](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/InterAccess.ppt)  
(A paper by Dr Sunday Akintunde, Deputy University Librarian, Systems UNIJOS)
- ICT in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/abu-ict.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/abu-ict.pdf)

## Session III: Networking in the Nigerian University System

- **WiderNet - Satellites Report**
- An Analysis of Lessons Learned by Resourcery in the Provision of Information Technology Solutions to Nigerian Universities (with comments on the University of Jos Experience)  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/COMMENTA.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/COMMENTA.pdf)  
paper from Resourcery Inc. Lagos. Contractors for University of Jos Fiber Backbone)
- [Solar Backup Systems For Computer Network](#)  
PDF at [www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/SOLAR.pdf](http://www.widernet.org/sites/default/files/SOLAR.pdf)  
(Paper by Lawal, Managing Director, Solar Electric Systems Limited)

## Free Software

- [Internet Explorer 5.5](#)
- [Adobe Acrobat 5.0](#)

## Attendees' Database

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University of Jos, February Training 2002  
Webmaster: [gotipj@unijos.edu.ng](mailto:gotipj@unijos.edu.ng)  
Nigerian Universities Network, University of Jos, Nigeria.  
Contact: [mailbox@unijos.edu.ng](mailto:mailbox@unijos.edu.ng)

# Participants Database

## Training

Surname	First Name	Address	Organisation	Email Address
Abakpa	John	NUNet	Unijos	<a href="mailto:abakpaj@unijos.edu.ng">abakpaj@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Abubakar	Kaltume	Unijos Consultancy Ltd		
Ajisafe	Taiwo	MIS	UNIBADAN	<a href="mailto:ajitaiwo@mail.ui.edu.ng">ajitaiwo@mail.ui.edu.ng</a>
Aku	Adamu	Bursary	Unijos	<a href="mailto:akua@unijos.edu.ng">akua@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Anionwu	Ebele	Faculty of Law	Unijos	<a href="mailto:anionwue@unijos.edu.ng">anionwue@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Auta	Sule	Unijos Consultancy Ltd		
Ayalo	Musa	MIS	Unijos	<a href="mailto:ayalo@unijos.edu.ng">ayalo@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Ayinde	Hakeem	ITF, Jos		<a href="mailto:ayindehakeem@yahoo.com">ayindehakeem@yahoo.com</a>
Ayodeji	Mamudu	Computer Centre	Unijos	<a href="mailto:mamuduu@unijos.edu.ng">mamuduu@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Chinyere	Chibuzo	Library	UNN	<a href="mailto:misunn@aol.com">misunn@aol.com</a>
Dabugat	Naandye	MIS	Unijos	<a href="mailto:dabugatn@unijos.edu.ng">dabugatn@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Ebere	G. C.	MIS Unit	UNN	<a href="mailto:misunn@aol.com">misunn@aol.com</a>
Kaze	Ezekiel	Unijos Consultancy Ltd		
Kurungtien	Binta	Unijos Consultancy Ltd		
Macrop	Longshak D.	Academic Planning	Unijos	
Mailafia	Isa JUTH	Jos		
Maiwada	Emmanuel A.	Bursary	Unijos	<a href="mailto:maiwadae@unijos.edu.ng">maiwadae@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Meeikyaa	Felicia N.	Academic Planning	Unijos	<a href="mailto:meekyaaf@unijos.edu.ng">meekyaaf@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Missen	Cliff	Director WiderNet Project		<a href="mailto:missenc@widernet.org">missenc@widernet.org</a>
Ochai	Akatu	Faculty of Law	Unijos	<a href="mailto:akatu@unijos.edu.ng">akatu@unijos.edu.ng</a>
Amaila	Danliti	Unijos Consultancy Ltd		
Shehu	Zarummai Nasir	NUNet	UDUSOKOTO	<a href="mailto:zarummai@uduso.edu.ng">zarummai@uduso.edu.ng</a>
Toiyin	Oguntunde	MIS	UNIBADAN	<a href="mailto:tantoyin@mail.ui.edu.ng">tantoyin@mail.ui.edu.ng</a>
Yara	Phias	Computer Science Dept	UNIBAdan	<a href="mailto:poyara@justice.com">poyara@justice.com</a>

**Participant Evaluation averages (on a scale of 1 to 10):**

**The Instructor:**

**Average Median**

1. Presenter was effective	<b>8.23</b>	<b>8.11</b>
2. Presenter covered concepts in a clear and concise manner	<b>8.42</b>	<b>8.71</b>
3. Presenter appeared to be well practiced and confident	<b>8.63</b>	<b>9.00</b>
4. Presenter understood the material presented	<b>8.61</b>	<b>9.00</b>
5. Presenter spoke clearly and loudly enough to suit the audience	<b>8.63</b>	<b>9.00</b>
6. Presenter taught at a pace suitable to the audience	<b>8.48</b>	<b>8.48</b>
7. Presenter left room for questions & answered each thoroughly	<b>8.70</b>	<b>9.00</b>

**The Facilities:**

1. The facilities were clean, comfortable, and pleasant	<b>8.37</b>	<b>9.00</b>
2. The location was convenient	<b>8.60</b>	<b>9.00</b>
3. The equipment was adequate and functional	<b>8.43</b>	<b>9.00</b>
4. The support staff was friendly and helpful	<b>8.80</b>	<b>9.00</b>
5. The meals and beverages were plentiful and satisfying	<b>8.11</b>	<b>8.00</b>

**The Training:**

1. The seminar topic was timely and relevant	<b>8.70</b>	<b>9.00</b>
2. The seminar content met my expectations	<b>8.53</b>	<b>8.00</b>
3. The seminar materials were high-quality	<b>8.37</b>	<b>8.37</b>
4. The seminar materials were useful	<b>8.60</b>	<b>9.00</b>
5. The seminar was just the right length of time	<b>8.27</b>	<b>9.00</b>

**General Considerations:**

1. These seminars were reasonably priced	<b>8.37</b>	<b>9.00</b>
2. These seminars met my expectations	<b>8.27</b>	<b>9.00</b>
3. These seminars will improve my professional capabilities	<b>8.59</b>	<b>9.00</b>
4. I would recommend these seminars to my colleagues	<b>8.69</b>	<b>9.00</b>
5. I would be interested in attending future WiderNet training	<b>9.04</b>	<b>9.04</b>

**AVERAGE 8.82**

## What other seminar topics would you like to see us offer?

- More workshops to enhance the users of ICT
- More workshops of this nature should be organised
- Digital Library databases
- Webpage hosting and design
- I want to be refreshed again
- Cisco, Microsoft developer
- Future training should include materials that has to do with visual programming
- More on vision and the training so far on ICT in Nigeria
- Cisco training
- Development network to order organisations
- I would like to see a training on how the universities can evaluate their huge investment on ICT
- Web based training - Hands on training -Managerial training for decision makers
- Training on hardware
- Training in server administration on Linux and Windows NT
- Succinct program with expansion in the other areas
- Systems Administrators -web site designs
- IT service level delivery
- Satellite connectivity
- Design of instructional materials
- Any topic that is relevant to planners - especially statistical packages or database
- More advanced training on design and practical maintenance of networks will be highly appreciated. Also, sophisticated equipment should be brought and training conducted on how to use them in diagnosing computing equipment.
- Script writing using Perl and other Linux script writing programs to write our own scripts and comments. Multimedia development using programs to create more user interactive tutorials
- Programming in Visual Basic. Programming in Microsoft Visual FoxPro, SQL programming

## Comments:

- I would like this programme to continue in the country particular reference to universities.
- I would want WiderNet to be prime mover to the generality of people both university and outside.
- I enjoyed the training programme.
- Excellent training.

- I will advise that this conference be organised yearly to increase work productivity.
  - It is worthwhile sharing these experiences with the professionals in different fields of computer operation.
  - I am very grateful to God and the Administration.
  - This is fantastic. Keep it up. I will need a copy of all the papers presented in the seminar. Thank you.
  - The absent representative of Federal Ministry of Science and Tech Abuja would have put more life into the workshop but unfortunately was not around. Subsequent seminar should be organised for 2 or 3 days.
  - This is a good avenue to share our ICT vision. Keep it up probably every year.
  - Not present at the training though.
  - Very impression training please in future try and increase the duration of such conference to two days. Please keep it up.
  - This was the most refreshing workshop. The university offered its senate chambers for it.
  - All the instructors performed very well. Facilities worked well. Thank you very much.
  - I recommend the training for schools, colleges and universities in Africa.
  - It has been generally ok and timely.
  - Must be difficult to cram much into one day more than the lifetime it takes to comprehend greatest effort.
  - The program shall expand to cover all fact of the society.
  - Excellent.
  - Nine for new.
  - The training was timely. Thanks to the instructor.
-

# UNI JOS - 2002

## February Training

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2002, 10:00 am

Opening Ceremony with VC & Principal Officers

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2002, 10:30 am

Papers:

Introduction to UNI JOS Intranet by Gotip

Introduction to The Internet by Yakmut

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2002, 11:30 am

Digital Images:

Learning Outcome 1

How computers store, display, and print images

- Image resolution
- Screen and printer resolutions
- The salient features of bitmap and vector graphics.
- Different types of bitmap images

Learning Outcome 2

Creating new graphics

- Bitmap vs. Vector?
- Demonstrations of LView Pro, Corel Draw, Corel Photo Paint
- Strategies for long term use and storage

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002, 1:00 pm Lunch Break

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002, 2:00 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

Learning Outcome 3

Optimizing images for the Web

- How the Web works
- Optimizing materials for speedy Web distribution
- Controlling color depth
- Understanding file compression
- GIF vs. JPG

Learning Outcome 4

Bitmap image editing techniques

- Cropping, resizing, and trimming images
- Creating clearer pictures
- Retouching images

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2002, 10:00 am

#### Learning Outcome 5

##### Scanning images and text

- Selecting the right scanner
- Photos vs. line drawings
- Techniques for best image output
- Choosing the image file type
- Scanning pages with mixed text and images
- Optical character recognition (OCR) and how it works

#### Learning Outcome 6

##### Digital photography

- Types of digital cameras
- Tips and tricks for making photos
- Techniques for photographing people, landscapes, and objects
- Harnessing light to improve your photos
- Achieving the best output

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2002, 1:00 pm Lunch Break

#### Project Implementation

- Design your web page combining text, images, and frames

# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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<http://www.aascu.org/alo>

---

## Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**

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Lead U. S. Institution: **The University of Iowa**

Host Country: **Nigeria**

Host Country Partner Institution: **Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC)**

U.S. Partnership Directors: **Cliff Missen, MA  
Mike McNulty, PhD**

Host Country Partnership Directors: **Dr. Mamman Aminu Ibrahim**

Host Country/Region USAID Mission  
Contact:

Project Web Site: **www.widernet.org**

Period Covered by this Report: **10/01/02 - 3/31/03**

Project Start Date: **September 1, 2000**

## Section I: Quantitative Reporting on USAID Indicators

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		During This Reporting Period:	Since Beginning of ALO Funding
1.	How many host country institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number of institutions: <b>10</b>	Number of institutions: <b>20</b>
	List these institutions (include NGOs, community-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, other higher education institutions, etc.) and briefly describe their involvement:		

	<p><b>Technician Training was held November 3-6, 2002, with optional workshops on November 7-8. Participants from ten institutions (Bayero University, Cardz Limited, Fenix Nigeria Ltd, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Benin, University of Ibadan, University of Jos, University of Nigeria, and VIC Business and Computer Services) attended the training sessions.</b></p>		
2.	How many U.S. institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number of institutions: <b>2</b>	Number of institutions: <b>6</b>
	<p>List these institutions (include NGOs, community based organizations, government agencies, businesses, other higher education institutions, etc.) and briefly describe their involvement:</p> <p><b>Microsoft has continued to donate software for project partners and 3-Com Corporation has donated wireless equipment for training purposes. Learnkey, Inc., the Network Startup Resource Center, and EZ-Ref have provided training materials and support.</b></p>		
3.	Approximately how many host country nationals have been trained (formally/informally, short-term/long-term) through partnership activities (e.g., degree programs, certificate programs, seminars, workshops, extension days, etc.)?	Females: <b>5</b>	Females: <b>65</b>
Males: <b>36</b>		Males: <b>251</b>	
Total: <b>41</b>		Total: <b>316</b>	
	<p>Briefly describe the nature and duration of the training:</p> <p><b>The three-day workshop focused on the creation of campus networks. Participants heard lectures on computer and network topics, watched demonstrations on computer assembly and basic networking, and then got hands-on experience building computers, preparing network wires, and building local area networks. Each person received a WiderNet Project CD containing thousands of documents and tutorials on building and maintaining campus ICT and computer-based training software from LearnKey, Inc.</b></p>		
4.	How many workforce development activities has your partnership initiated?	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
	Briefly describe these workforce development activities:		
5.	Has your partnership leveraged any new resources (cash or in-kind) for its activities?	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$790,000</b>
	List and briefly describe the new resources:		

**Value includes high-end server software from Microsoft and RedHat and training materials for trainees and donated computers, networking equipment and software that will be shipped to Nigerian universities.**

## Section II: Qualitative Reporting

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### 1. In one or two sentences, what is the overall goal of this partnership project?

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC).

### 2. What activities has the partnership undertaken during this reporting period?

During the last reporting period, the WiderNet Project held its second WiderNet Project Technician Training at the University of Ibadan. A wireless networking workshop and a one-day Web design course were offered to the participants in conjunction to the technician training. Director Cliff Missen and programmer Mike Schmitz also consulted with computer technicians at the University of Ibadan, Ahmadu Bello University, University of Jos, and University of Port Harcourt during a month long visit to Nigeria in January.

### 3. How have these activities contributed to (or do you anticipate will contribute to) development in the host country?

The technical training contributes to sustainable development in several important ways from an institutional perspective. Upgrading the skills of the Nigerian technician will have the effect of ensuring that scarce institutional resources are used more effectively, expensive equipment and IT systems will be maintained and upgraded, and improved ICT systems and applications may offer revenue generation possibilities through user fees and/or service charges and consultancies to help sustain the development of the ICT infrastructure and services.

Providing advanced training for technical staff will also provide an incentive for staff to remain with the institution and reduce turnover in personnel.

### 4. How have these activities benefited (or will they ultimately benefit) the U.S. institution (s) and /or local community?

Increased digital communication with African colleagues will benefit University of Iowa educational programs and exchanges through long-term university linkages. These linkages will open doors to mutually beneficial research projects and enhance international awareness. Already we have several Nigerian graduate students who have come to study at the University of Iowa, as well, dozens of University of Iowa faculty and staff have created new on-line relationships with their counterparts in Nigeria. The Department of Math, for example, has agreed to a linkage program with the University of

Jos to help revitalize mathematics education at Jos.

**5. What has been the most significant accomplishment this reporting period, intended or unintended?**

After hosting training workshops at their institutions and inviting trainees from other institutions (including the private sector), the participating universities have learned that there's a big market for such training and they are building sustainable models for working with indigenous and foreign trainers to offer more workshops. At our last technician training, the University of Ibadan added two more one-day workshops that netted the university a handy profit of \$1,000 after paying for all the expenses. With such a model, the universities can attract trainers, using the proceeds of their paid clients to cover the costs of their staff, who attend for free.

**6. What challenges has your partnership encountered in carrying out its planned activities during this reporting period?**

A staff and faculty strike that began in late December 2002 has forced the closure of all Nigerian universities for over four months. Since nearly all of our linkages are with Nigerian universities, our progress in distance education as been significantly delayed. However, by shifting our focus to short-term on-site workshops followed by intensive use of computer-based training materials, we have come across a solution that has proved equally as good, if not better.

**7. List and briefly describe your partnership's planned activities for the next six months, with attention to achieving the stated goals and objectives:**

A final Technician Training will be held in Nigeria during May 2003. We will also undertake a final evaluation program to gather more feedback from our Nigerian colleagues.

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**8. Has your partnership consulted/collaborated with Ministry of Education or other government officials? YES**

If YES, briefly describe: We have provided consulting and training for the National Universities Commission.

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**9. Has your partnership participated in any government-sponsored panels or any other initiatives to inform policy? YES**

If YES, briefly describe: Director Cliff Missen was a founding stakeholder for the The Nigerian-American Information Initiative.

---

**10. Has your partnership helped to increase institutional accountability? YES**

If YES, briefly describe: A project goal is that through the use of university-wide database systems, financial practices will become more transparent, therefore increasing accountability within the institution.

---

**11. Has your partnership influenced institutional policy to help increase the NO**

enrollment or participation of underserved students?

---

12. Has your partnership established new degree programs? **NO**

---

13. Has your partnership adapted curricula to make them relevant to local development needs? **YES**

This year, for the first time, the University of Jos faculty senate has approved the course "Internetworks in International Development" as a standard credit course for undergraduate and graduate students.

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14. Has your partnership provided training (e.g., workshops, seminars, short-courses, etc.) to non-higher education institutions (e.g., NGOs, government agencies, businesses, etc.)? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: Staff members from Cardz Limited; Fenix Nigeria, Ltd; and VIC Business and Computer Services attended the last WiderNet Project Technician Training.

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15. Has your partnership donated any computers, books, library supplies, etc. to improve local resources? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: Two of our partner universities have received over 300 used computers and 5,000 books donated by individuals and companies around the Iowa City area. As well, they have received new network cards and wireless equipment from 3Com Corporation and used networking equipment from the Network Startup Resource Center. Many of these donations were collected and prepared by volunteers, while the recipient universities paid the shipping costs.

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16. Has your partnership been involved in other outreach activities? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe:

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17. Has your partnership disseminated information about the project (e.g., print and on-line campus/local/national/international media, radio, television, conference/seminar presentations, published papers, etc.)? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: The WiderNet Project Web site contains all of the documents and reports generated from our activities, including hundreds of photographs. We also "mirror" the Web sites of two partner universities. Articles about the WiderNet Project -- especially our computer donation project -- have appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, The Des Moines Register, and the Iowa City Press Citizen. Co-Directors Michael McNulty and Cliff Missen have discussed African university developments on WSUI radio's one-hour call-in talk show.

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Last updated 5/6/03 by Cliff Missen

# ALO: Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development

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## Building Digital Technical Capacity at Nigerian Universities: Laying the Foundation for Greater Digital Participation and Collaboration

Institutional Partnerships Program  
**PROGRESS REPORT**

---

Lead U. S. Institution: **The University of Iowa**

Host Country: **Nigeria**

Host Country Partner Institution: **Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC)**

U.S. Partnership Directors: **Cliff Missen, MA  
Mike McNulty, PhD**

Host Country Partnership Directors: **Dr. Mamman Aminu Ibrahim**

Host Country/Region USAID Mission  
Contact:

Project Web Site: **[www.widernet.org](http://www.widernet.org)**

Period Covered by this Report: **4/01/03 - 9/30/03**

Project Start Date: **September 1, 2000**

## Section I: Quantitative Reporting on USAID Indicators

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		During This Reporting Period:	Since Beginning of ALO Funding
1.	How many host country institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number of institutions: <b>4</b>	Number of institutions: <b>23</b>
	List these institutions (include NGOs, community-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, other higher education institutions, etc.) and briefly describe their involvement:		

**Participants at Technician Training sessions have been employed at Abubakar Tatawa Balewa University, Ahmadu Bello University, Bayero University, Federal University of Technology, the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, the National Universities Commission, NINLAN, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, University of Abuja, University of Ibadan, University of Maiduguri, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Usman Danfodio University, University of Benin, Obafemi Awolowo University, and the University of Ghana.**

**The Nigerian National Conference on ICT in Higher Education was attended by representatives from Resourcery, Ltd., the National Assembly, Afrione Limited, the National Democratic Institute, JUTH, Radcom, Sokoto; the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; University of Jos, University of Ibadan, and Ahmadu Bello University.**

2.	How many U.S. institutions have been involved in partnership activities?	Number of institutions:  <b>2</b>	Number of institutions:  <b>6</b>
<p>List these institutions (include NGOs, community based organizations, government agencies, businesses, other higher education institutions, etc.) and briefly describe their involvement:</p> <p><b>Microsoft has continued to donate software for project partners and 3-Com Corporation has donated wireless equipment for training purposes. Learnkey, Inc., the Network Startup Resource Center, and EZ-Ref have provided training materials and support.</b></p>			
3.	Approximately how many host country nationals have been trained (formally/informally, short-term/long-term) through partnership activities (e.g., degree programs, certificate programs, seminars, workshops, extension days, etc.)?	Females: <b>3</b>	Females: <b>68</b>
		Males: <b>26</b>	Males: <b>277</b>
		Total: <b>29</b>	Total: <b>345</b>
<p>Briefly describe the nature and duration of the training:</p> <p><b>The three-day workshop focused on the creation of campus networks. Participants heard lectures on computer and network topics, watched demonstrations on computer assembly and basic networking, and then got hands-on experience building computers, preparing network wires, and building local area networks. Each person received a WiderNet Project CD containing thousands of documents and tutorials on building and maintaining campus ICT and computer-based training software from LearnKey, Inc.</b></p>			
4.	How many workforce development activities has your partnership initiated?	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>

	Briefly describe these workforce development activities:		
5.	Has your partnership leveraged any new resources (cash or in-kind) for its activities?	\$11,885	\$801,885
	List and briefly describe the new resources:  <b>Value includes wireless networking equipment donated by 3 Com Corporation that will be used for Technician Training at Nigerian universities.</b>		

## Section II: Qualitative Reporting

---

### 1. In one or two sentences, what is the overall goal of this partnership project?

The partnership between the University of Iowa and the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) seeks to develop the capacity of technicians and computer support personnel to develop, maintain, and promote the use of computers and networks at Nigerian universities. It also seeks, in partnership with Kirkwood Community College, to create links between the University of Iowa and multiple Nigerian universities via the Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC).

### 2. What activities has the partnership undertaken during this reporting period?

During the last reporting period, the WiderNet Project held a two-day technician training workshop at Bayero University followed by two days of database training. Director Cliff Missen and Project Assistant Mike Schmitz also consulted with computer technicians at the University of Ibadan and the University of Jos.

### 3. How have these activities contributed to (or do you anticipate will contribute to) development in the host country?

The technical training contributes to sustainable development in several important ways from an institutional perspective. Upgrading the skills of the Nigerian technician will have the effect of ensuring that scarce institutional resources are used more effectively, expensive equipment and IT systems will be maintained and upgraded, and improved ICT systems and applications may offer revenue generation possibilities through user fees and/or service charges and consultancies to help sustain the development of the ICT infrastructure and services.

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international awareness. Already we have several Nigerian graduate students who have come to study at the University of Iowa, as well, dozens of University of Iowa faculty and staff have created new on-line relationships with their counterparts in Nigeria. The Department of Math, for example, has agreed to a linkage program with the University of Jos to help revitalize mathematics education at Jos.

**5. What has been the most significant accomplishment this reporting period, intended or unintended?**

One Technician Training participant achieved the higher level Network+ certification in May 2003.

**6. What challenges has your partnership encountered in carrying out its planned activities during this reporting period?**

In December 2002, Nigerian university lecturers went on a strike that effectively shut down all public universities for six months. The strike further delayed our project since most of our linkages are with Nigerian universities. Progress in ICT was interrupted for our partners and the number of technicians who could become industry standard certified was significantly decreased due to having limited or no access to computers and equipment at the universities.

A training session in database development for campus ICT staff was held for the University of Jos; however, the training was confined to Cliff Missen's hotel room during a period when faculty and staff were not allowed on campus. The limited space diminished hands-on training opportunities necessary for learning. Another workshop would provide what was missed at the last gathering.

**7. List and briefly describe your partnership's planned activities for the next six months, with attention to achieving the stated goals and objectives:**

We will hold the Third Annual National Conference on ICT in Higher Education in November 2003 at the University of Jos. Trainees will continue to be certified in A+ and Network+ technologies and we will continue to provide one-on-one consulting for numerous campuses. We will conduct a follow-up training session in database development for campus ICT staff in November 2003.

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**8. Has your partnership consulted/collaborated with Ministry of Education or other government officials? YES**

**If YES, briefly describe:** We have provided consulting and training for the National Universities Commission.

---

**9. Has your partnership participated in any government-sponsored panels or any other initiatives to inform policy? YES**

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11. Has your partnership influenced institutional policy to help increase the enrollment or participation of underserved students? **NO**

---

12. Has your partnership established new degree programs? **NO**

---

13. Has your partnership adapted curricula to make them relevant to local development needs? **YES**

This year, for the first time, the University of Jos faculty senate has approved the course "Internetworks in International Development" as a standard credit course for undergraduate and graduate students.

---

14. Has your partnership provided training (e.g., workshops, seminars, short-courses, etc.) to non-higher education institutions (e.g., NGOs, government agencies, businesses, etc.)? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: Staff members from Cardz Limited; Fenix Nigeria, Ltd; and VIC Business and Computer Services attended the last WiderNet Project Technician Training. Director Missen has been invited to give a presentation on enterprise computer networking to U.S. State Department representatives in Abuja, Nigeria.

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15. Has your partnership donated any computers, books, library supplies, etc. to improve local resources? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: Two of our partner universities have received over 300 used computers and 5,000 books donated by individuals and companies around the Iowa City area. As well, they have received new network cards and wireless equipment from 3Com Corporation and used networking equipment from the Network Startup Resource Center. Many of these donations were collected and prepared by volunteers, while the recipient universities paid the shipping costs.

---

16. Has your partnership been involved in other outreach activities? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe:

Through outside funding and the work of many volunteers, the WiderNet Project has been able to create the eGranary digital library which provides Internet resources to people who live in areas lacking adequate on-line access. Through a process of mirroring (copying) Websites, saving the information on hard drives, and delivering them to intranet systems at institutions, hundreds of thousands of document can be quickly accessed over their local area networks. Nearly one

million documents have been collected as of today.

The eGranary digital library has been distributed to four universities in Nigeria, one university in Ghana and one in the Gambia.

See <http://www.widernet.org/digitalLibrary/index.htm> for more information on the eGranary digital library

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17. Has your partnership disseminated information about the project (e.g., print and on-line campus/local/national/international media, radio, television, conference/seminar presentations, published papers, etc.)? **YES**

If YES, briefly describe: The WiderNet Project Web site contains all of the documents and reports generated from our activities, including hundreds of photographs. We also "mirror" the Web sites of two partner universities. Articles about the WiderNet Project -- especially our computer donation project -- have appeared in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, The Des Moines Register, and the Iowa City Press Citizen. Co-Directors Michael McNulty and Cliff Missen have discussed African university developments on WSUI radio's one-hour call-in talk show.

Michael McNulty gave the presentation "Digitizing the African University: A Search for Appropriate Strategies," on Monday, Nov. 11 as part of the University of Iowa International Programs' International Mondays lecture series that is open to the public

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Last updated 11/2/03 by Kim Francis

The following list are the current nominees for the ALO project. We will be training 40 technicians a year for two years. We will receive another 8 nominations from the Nigerian Universities Commission before we begin training.

Name	Position	University	E-mailAddress
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